

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph at page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims ~~priority~~ the benefit of and priority to International Application Serial No. PCT/US2003/031649 filed October 6, 2003, which, in turn, claims the benefit of and priority from ~~of to~~ U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/416,332 filed on October 4, 2002, by Frank J. Viola et al entitled "ANGLED SURGICAL FASTENER APPARATUS", and incorporates its entire contents by reference herein. --